**LRCA Junior Report 2025**

**Saturday Club**

Saturday club has continued to thrive at our Venue the Oak Centre in Bendow Rise. We have four groups, The Knights (beginners up to 6 months experience), Bishops, Rooks, Kings. On average about 45 kids are attending per week. As before the aim for Kings group is to start experience league chess and move onto local clubs. Full time coaches are myself, Kerry Meer, Chris Gibson and Sooraj Raju

**Schools Chess**

This year I arranged two primary schools tournaments.

* 15th November 2024 at Market Bosworth School.

7 schools took part entering 10 teams in total.

Fairfield Prep School, Congerstone Primary School, Desford Primary School, Leicester Grammar, Leicester Prep School, Scalford Primary School, Church Hill Primary School

* 14th March 2025 at Fairfield Preparatory School in Loughborough.

4 schools entered 8 teams. Fairfield Prep, LGS Stoneygate, Holywell Primary and Church Hill.

The winning team qualified for the national finals of the ECF Primary Team Challenge, taking place on 24th of June at Nottingham University.

**Under 9 and Under 11 Team Events**

As last year, Leicestershire hosted the Midlands Zonal of the English Primary Schools Chess Association (EPSCA) Under 11 County Championships. This is a 20 board event where children play 3 games at 40 + 10 against other midlands county.

We finished 3rd to Warwickshire and Notts, so missed out on national finals by one place!

This year most of the representatives of the midlands counties attended the EPSCA AGM to push for some much needed changes to the competition. The result is for next academic year

Under 11 will only by 12 boards

Format has changed to five rounds of 15 + 10

Due to these changes it is much more viable for Leicestershire to enter next season

* Under 9 Team (12 boards)
* Under 11 Team (12 boards)
* Girls Team (6 boards)

Additionally we really should enter these, as we have a number of girls in the top 20 for their age categories, and a number of promising Under 9 players. Therefore I am requesting addition of an extra member to the junior team to help organise the teams for these events.

**Under 18 Team Events**

I persuaded Sooraj Raju and Ken Ronald to look after the Under 18 teams in the Junior 4NCL event held at Daventry on weekend of 8th and 9th of February 2025. The second team finished 4th out of 14 teams in the second division, and the first team did event better, winning division 1!

The first team was represented by Sathsara Dissanayake, Ted Ronald, Tara Tamilselvan, Alex Shen and Oscar Brown. Moving forwards I would like Ken and Sooraj to continue with this role

**Individual Tournaments**

**Leicestershire Junior Championships**

With support of Holywell School I was able to run a ‘closed’ Leicestershire Junior championships on 7th December 2024. This was a five round swiss at 20+5 with 57 chidren competing with the following results

Under 9 Boys and Overall champions – Osmarwoop Kotti

Under 9 Girls Champion – Valerie Lai

Under 11 Girls and Overall champion – Aadaarshini Amudhavel

Under 11 Boys Champion – Zayn Patel

Under 14 Girls and Overall champion – Tara Tamilselvan

Under 14 Boys Champion – Ted Ronald

Under 18 Boys and Overall Champion – Alex Shen

**EJCOA Qualifier**

The East Midlands Qualifier for EJCOA National Youth Championships was held at Fairfield School on 15th February 2025.

First placed girl and boy in each age category qualifies for National Youth Championships from 11th to 13th July at Nottingham High School

96 children competed this time, so this event has become well established in the calendar.

Alan Agnew

Leicestershire Junior Coach

May 2025